

a roll, minute medusiform young, which have been presumed to be the young of some larger and common species; but our author has never in one instance seen them undergo "the smallest sensible change," "either by organic increment, or the evolution of additional parts. They perished in the precise state wherein they were first recognized," although some specimens survived for sixty days. Sir John adds: "I have not heard that any other naturalist has been more fortunate,—that he has succeeded in preserving those component portions of the medusan roll under uninterrupted observation until some farther evolution, alteration, and increment, admitted their identification with adult animals. If this has actually been done, my ignorance of it must plead an apology for protracting the narrative. I have observed it affirmed, it is true, that older and larger Medusæ are the adults of the younger and smaller tribe now referred to. But I have not seen any demonstration of the facts, possibly owing to my very limited sphere of information." (p. 242.) In fact the additional observations of Sir John Dalyell make us doubt whether they can ever pass into larger Medusæ, any more than the medusiform larvæ of the *Campanularia* can do, but rather that it may be they should develop into the hydra-like parent, which produces these Medusæ only at uncertain intervals and under unascertained conditions.

Plate 51 contains good figures of *Medusa aurita* and *capillata*. Other species named *Medusa crinita*, *proboscidea*, a species of *Tima*, *Medusa fimbriata*, *Beroë ovata*, *B. punctata*, *B. bilobata*, *B. pileus*, are represented more or less fully in the plates which follow.

Plate 55 is named *Valkeria spinosa*, but it has a very peculiar aspect which puzzles us. Plate 56 is entitled "Ascidia," and we presume the species to be *A. mentula* described in a former portion of the volume; which concludes with an interesting chapter on the "Nature of Zoophytes."

*First Steps to Zoology.* By ROBERT PATTERSON. Simms and M'Intyre. London, 1849.

This recent addition to our stock of popular books on natural history is an abridgement of Mr. Patterson's more extended work, the 'Zoology for Schools.' Here his object has been merely to furnish the young reader with short notices of the various orders into which naturalists have divided the animal world, and in this he has fully succeeded. No more prominence is given to one portion over the others than from the nature of the subject is almost inevitable, and we think that the 'First Steps to Zoology' will be found to convey to the beginner a very fair impression of the extent of the animal kingdom, and of its great leading divisions.

The book is illustrated with a large number of woodcuts, but either from long wear or from carelessness in working, the present impressions are very inferior. This is a pity, as in all probability a little care would have prevented such an occurrence; and in the event of a second edition appearing, we hope Mr. Patterson will try whether something cannot be done to improve his book in this respect.